Water Management Training Agreement with France

526. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has agreed to help India to set up a training centre for water services and technologies in order to tackle with the problem of poor water management relating to drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when pilot plants would be set up;

(d) whether Government propose to take the help of other countries in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-French Joint Working Group on Urban Development decided in its meeting held in October, 2004 that Training Centre for Water Services and Technologies (TCWST) should be set up in India. Subsequently, International Office of Water (IOW), France conducted a feasibility study for setting up of the Training Centre in June/July, 2005. The draft report of the study has been prepared. During the next meeting of the Indo-French Joint Working Group on Urban Development held on 19.1.06, it was decided that a 'Realisation Study' for setting up of Training Centre should be carried out to finalise issues like structure of the organization, financial viability of the project and substainability of the institute. Once, the 'Realisation Study' is completed. the process of setting up the Training Centre would be initiated.

(c) The pilot plants would form part of the Training Centre and would be set up simultaneously.

(d) to (f) The Training Centre is proposed to be set up with bilateral and/or technical assistance under the Indo-French Financial Protocol.